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Eye on the prize
Despite a hard-fought game over the weekend, the Huskies fell 6-3 against the Toronto Jr. Canadiens in Minden. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Council struggles with MH capital budget levy increase

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

A municipality's annual spending plan is essentially a living and evolving entity that will change, and be adapted to needs throughout the year.

Four meetings have been dedicated to hammering out Minden Hills' 2025 capital and operating budget. And Cynthia Fletcher, the township's CAO, said work done to that point has been but a mere starting point.

That is, the projects and their costing contained in the proposed spending plan is simply best estimates of the township's needs as they are known today, she said.

"Things will change and we'll modify things throughout the year," Fletcher said. "True costs will only be known once we've tendered out our projects or sought quotes for any of the services that we need."

Unforeseen circumstances and developments throughout the year will bring staff back to council.

"We may be able to bring more work forward," she said. "We may have to defer some

see MINDEN page 2

Cultural Centre Foundation hosts Family Day Open House

by THOMAS SMITH
Times Staff

This year, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation is once again celebrating Family Day with an open house, in partnership with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation. The family friendly event allows families to have hands-on activities, and experience the fun of the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Student Art Exhibition, all for free. The event runs from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and will have food and refreshments available from the Minden Rotary Club.

"Our second annual Archie Stouffer student art exhibit will celebrate and reflect the rich cultural and natural heritage of The Land Between, the vital and diverse landscape that we call home," said Shannon Kelly, manager of cultural services at the centre. "We have over 100 pieces that were submitted from students from Kindergarten to Grade 8, in a variety of mediums."

The students' artworks will be displayed at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, with the artist reception taking place on Feb. 22 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Awards of recognition will be handed out to artists, chosen by their jury of local artists.

At the Open House, Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve will have a table-top exhibit on wolves and their importance to the environment. Nature's Place will also be debuting their Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP) exhibit as well.

"ATIP Haliburton's purpose is to identify and raise awareness of existing apple trees in Haliburton County and stress their importance as a food resource," said Kelly. The organization strives to increase availability of locally grown and produced products, increase food security in the county, increase self-sufficiency in the food supply chain, reduce environmental costs associated with food transportation, and increase the region's agrotourism sector.

Children participated in a mask making workshop during a previous program offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The upcoming Family Day event is open to all ages. /FILE

The afternoon Family Day event at the Cultural Centre will also offer crafts and activities for all ages. No pre-registration is required for this event. Admission is by donation. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden, with regular hours of operation on Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Minden council 'not happy' with budget deliberations

from page 1

things. We may have to reallocate some things."

Finance Department staff will also provide quarterly reports to inform council of budgetary developments.

Before the special budget meeting Feb. 4, township staff had fine-tuned the proposed budget to include about 3.3 per cent for municipal services, 1.5 per cent for investments in infrastructure needs, and almost one per cent for the increase in policing costs levied by the OPP in 2025.

That made for a proposed tax levy increase of 5.6 per cent to residents, with growth factored in. That increased through the course of the meeting.

After five hours discussing budget line items, council was left with a 6.35 per cent tax levy increase to property owners.

"I'm not content with that," Councillor Tammy McKelvey said of the rate increase. "I'm assuming that Coun. (Pam) Sayne wouldn't be because she gave us a very compassionate talk last meeting about we can't increase the taxes. Anybody else got some ideas or is everybody else content with (the increase)."

"Sorry, what exactly is your issue?" Mayor Bob Carter said.

"Are you content with 6.35 per cent tax levy increase to the taxpayers?" McKelvey said.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said she doesn't like that number, the tax increase, but she believes it could have been higher without the work staff and council put into lowering it as much as possible.

"I don't think I'm content with it, but I think it's the reality of what, the way the world is right now," Schell said. "Staff have spent many hours and council has spent many hours going through this. I think what is put before council is what is required from staff to get moving on the 2025 operations of the corporation."

She suggested that competitive bidding on capital projects may lower some of the budget's cost projections and prove a means to save tax dollars.

"We could sit here for another six meetings and continue to do this," Schell said. "But I think we're going to have to each decide where we're comfortable to settle. We're all ratepayers, too."

Carter said he's considering what is actually going to the taxpayer. That's a 5.1 per cent increase with two per cent of that to policing and 1.25 per cent which council believes will be needed to maintain infrastructure. That's about 3.1 per cent and there aren't many businesses that couldn't float year to year on three per cent.

"I'm not willing to sacrifice our future to have a short-term savings now," Carter said. "Am I happy? No, I'm not happy. But I think that the 5.1 per cent is a reasonable number that people will have to accept to keep this municipality strong."

McKelvey said she believes there are still ways by which the tax levy increase could be decreased.

Sayne said the more time council spends debating the numbers is time township staff are not getting an early jump on tendering projects. She'd prefer any increase not exceed the rate of annual inflation, but that isn't going to happen if the provincial government continues to download their responsibilities onto municipalities. Perhaps the current provincial election could be a factor for change in that.

"We've got a responsibility here, council, not to tear apart what we're seeing our staff doing," Sayne said. "But more of a responsibility to talk to the province to … say you can't keep taking this money and investing it in underground highways when we're dealing with housing."

Carter deferred to the direction of staff in the budget because further debate is only more council opinion.

"They've studied it," he said. "They're the people we hired to do this."

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AH decides course of work for North Shore Rd. repairs

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Some North Shore Road residents in Algonquin Highlands will temporarily lose Maple Lake access to accommodate the road's repair at the shoreline.

Adam Thorn, the township's public works manager, told council during its Feb. 6 meeting that he anticipates the work will take two years to complete. When it begins is dependent on bids for the job received from potential contractors.

Just how long people will lose water access isn't yet known, Thorn said. A clearer picture will be had once a work schedule is in place.

"I don't want to get too far into it because I'd hate to say it's going to be three months and it's a week that one person is affected," he said. "But, certainly everyone across that section where the rebuild is happening will be affected."

That section of the North Shore Road to be worked on extends from the Generation Trail to St. Peters Road. But the only pieces of the road where work will be done in Maple Lake and water access will be denied are the four identified slumping sections, Thorn said.

Work there will take place below the water line at those sections.

"This is a big project and it affects a lot of people," he said. "We're going to try to make this as painless as possible and as less invasive as possible with the understanding that we can't build roads without people being affected."

North Shore Road upgrades began years ago. Attempts made to obtain funding for the project didn't work out as hoped.

"We have progressively been looking at the road and trying to come up with some solutions, cost-effective solutions to repair the sections that were noted as a slump section," Thorn said.

Staff worked with Jewell Engineering last year on road designs and shoreline repairs along four sections of North Shore Road that were identified as needing major repairs due to shoreline erosion.

The erosion caused portions of the roadway to slump into Maple Lake.

The collaboration focused on evaluating the extent of the damage and developing sustainable repair options to stabilize the affected sections, prevent further erosion, and protect the integrity of the road and adjacent shoreline.

The project scope includes slope stabilization measures and actual road repair work.

Two stabilization options were devised that could accomplish what's required for the slumping section, Thorn said. There is a large difference in cost between the options.

"The aggressive work required to install piles is pretty invasive," he said.

Staff suggested council opt for the $411,000 option over the second which has an about $1.5 million price tag.

The preferred option involves placing shot rock along the existing toe of slope. This large rock will stabilize the toe of slope and permit non-erodible material to be placed to build-up the existing slope to a 2:1 slope.

Shot rock will extend up the slope two metres above normal water surface elevation to resist erosion due to fluctuations in water surface elevation, waves, and ice action. The upper part of the slope will be covered with vegetated rip-rap to aid in long-term performance of the slope.

Vegetated rip-rap involves planting of native trees and shrubs within the rocks on the new slope to create a more natural look. Sturdy tree roots aid in anchoring the slope.

"It'll take its time and then it'll grow back into a nice natural area," Thorn said. "Certainly not a smooth manicured front yard by any means, but it'll certainly go back to a natural look and have a nice look along that edge of the road."

Rebuilding the road itself requires digging the subgrade of the affected sections. Of six suggested avenues to address repairs, staff urged council to greenlight an approach that delivers a durable and long-lasting solution and enhances user benefits.

It will cost about $2.5 million and involves widening the road, pulverizing to a depth of 200 mm, placing 30 mm of Granular A, and then a single 60 mm lift of hot mix asphalt.

Thorn said it isn't the cheapest option considered but will provide the most stabilization and longevity for the cost.

As soon as council greenlights the project, everybody in the area is going to be made aware of the work. Thorn said communication is a key component to ensure people dependent on North Shore Road are kept aware during the project.

Thorn said residents would be provided as much of a schedule of work as possible.

"This is a pretty substantial project," he said. "Probably one of the largest projects that we've done here in Algonquin Highlands."

Property owners with structures on the shoreline areas to be worked on would have to be removed, Thorn said.

"They need to be removed so that all the in-water work can be done," he said. "It can't be done with a dock in the way or a set of stairs. So certainly they would lose access to getting to the water via the way they've probably done it in the past. It would be deemed a contraction site so it would be unsafe for them to navigate up and down."

Swoosh!

The Hal High Boys Basketball team played against St. Thomas Aquinas this past week, and notched another win with an impressive 50-40 score. /TIM YANO staff photographer

In it to win it

Hal High Girls Volleyball team faced off against Brock this past week on the high school court, and came out on top with a tight 2-0 win against the visiting team. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca by February 21, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

FAMILY DAY ACTIVITIES

Join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena for Family Day on Monday, February 17th for drop-in activities. Included is a FREE sponsored Public Skate courtesy of the Minden & District Lions Club. For details of other scheduled activities and associated fees, please visit our website.

SNOW REMOVAL

Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2025 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE BUDGET AND BY-LAWS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider adopting By-Laws for the 2025 Budget, 2025 Tax Rates, and 2025 Water & Wastewater Rates on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM during its Regular Council Meeting located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

PUBLIC SKATING NOW BY DONATION

Public Skating at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena is by donation. The donation box is located at the administration office. Check-in is required before skating. Children 9 years and under are required to wear CSA approved ice-skating helmet. Helmet use for other skaters is strongly recommended.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **February 13 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **February 27 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

FAMILY DAY CLOSURES

The Township Administration Offices will be **closed** on Monday, February 17, 2025 to celebrate Family Day.

The following facilities are **open** as follows:
- SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena 8am-9pm
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre 12pm-2pm
- All waste disposal sites will be open and will operate on Sunday hours

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Agnes Jamieson Gallery: The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Elementary School Student Art Exhibit – The Land Between, from February 13 to March 15. The Artist Reception will take place on Saturday, February 22 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- Documentary screening: Mighty Jerome (2010) on Thursday, February 13 at 1:00 pm. Chronicling the life and career of Harry Jerome, Canada's record-setting track and field athlete. Admission is free. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).
- Family Day Open House: Join the MHCC Foundation on Monday, February 17 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm Hands-on activities at Nature's Place, the Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP) Haliburton exhibit, and a wolf centre exhibit by the Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve Ltd. Admission is by donation. Food and refreshments will be provided by the Minden Rotary Club.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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Minden ER: 'number one priority' for NDP

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Barbara Doyle is no stranger to working with people. As the managing director at Kawartha Lakes Museum and Archives, with a background in management, real estate, and human rights advocacy, Doyle is deeply immersed in the history, the stories, and the needs of her community.

As the New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate for Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, and Brock townships in the upcoming provincial election, Doyle is committed to representing her community and the surrounding areas by putting the people first.

And she's made it clear that accessible healthcare is top of mind during this election. "It's our number one priority," she said. "We have to get the Minden ER re-opened."

Minden's emergency room (ER) was closed in June of 2023, after a short few months of notice. The closure left the community scrambling to understand the reasoning behind the abrupt decision, and advocates are still fighting for the re-opening both at a local level, as well as provincially.

"We need to stop blaming institutions that are chronically underfunded for their closures," said Doyle. "We will re-open the Minden ER. It'll take some time to get things revamped, but this is not the time to be cutting back on healthcare support."

Doyle and her NDP comrades are adamantly opposed to the privatization of healthcare; a notion that the Conservative government has alluded to on occasion. "I have always considered myself a builder," she said. "And right now, we have a government that tears down, and is making shifts to private."

Barbara Doyle of Lindsay is the NDP candidate for the local riding. This is her third election that she is participating in, and encourages everyone to go out and vote. /photo submitted

The NDP has been active in the fight to re-open the Minden ER, with multiple visits and promises from Chris Glover, the MPP for Spadina Fort York, and Marit Stiles, the Ontario NDP leader.

On top of healthcare, Doyle is passionate about tourism, arts, and culture in small towns. "For every dollar spent on arts and culture, it has been proven that it brings in an average of $11.70 into local businesses."

Doyle noted that in a time of singularity and online consumption, having public spaces reduces isolation and encourages community connection. "Tourism is a huge economic driver," she said. "And small business owners are the lifeblood of our areas. I would like to see a lot more support for small business owners."

The NDP is acutely aware of large retailers increasing their costs at the expense of Ontarians. If elected, Doyle shared that they will be introducing a monthly grocery supplement as a direct deposit, based on income and family size. This will be paired with developing a strategy to combat price gouging by corporate retailers. "I really like this approach," she said, "help now, and then a plan to deal with the root problem of ever increasing grocery prices."

When asked about her predictions for the poll results, she noted that the snap election being called over the winter months can be challenging for small towns. "The aspect of a winter campaign in rural areas will result in a lot of voter suppression."

Doyle believes that the reasoning behind the quick election is opportunistic for the Conservative Party, who are currently sitting with a majority government. "This election was simply the Conservatives attempt to secure power," she said. "There was absolutely no need to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on this."

In light of this, Doyle strongly encourages everyone to get out to the polls on Feb. 27. "I think there will be a very low voter turnout, because people are thinking that their vote doesn't matter," she said. "But if you want to vote for any party that you truly believe in, then you should vote."

Doyle believes that in this current political climate, the NDP has their "best chance" of coming out on top. But she needs people to show up to make it happen.

"People really need to get out to the polls,"she said, "and make themselves heard."

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Regina brings local perspective to Green Party stage

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

In light of the snap election called by Premier Doug Ford on Jan. 28, candidates across the province have been scrambling to get their political ducks in a row leading up to the Feb. 27 poll date.

While it may seem rushed from a voter perspective, Green Party candidate Tom Regina says that rumours of the abrupt, wintery election have been in the works since last September.

"It is a quick decision, but we've been getting ready for it," he said. "You don't know when it's going to happen, but there were signs. And people aren't happy about it."

Regina has called Haliburton County home since 1990. Over his years as a teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, he was given an immersive look at the socio-econonomic build of the community.

Upon his retirement from teaching, Regina dove into the world of politics, deeply learning and navigating through the varying platforms, in an effort to understand who could best represent the needs of our local community. "I went from party to party," he said, "and I was looking at all their policies, and the Green Party is the only party born out of the mandate for protecting the environment."

In a world where climate change is on the forefront of many global disasters, environmental sustainability and protection was an absolutely crucial factor when it came to choosing someone to represent the needs of the people.

Regina began volunteering with Green Party, and realized that more and more of his values were represented within their beliefs; affordable housing, access to healthcare, environmental sustainability, and equity and compassion for all. "I really feel strongly about our Green values," he said. "All policies are imbued with the central values of sustainability and concern for the environment."

Tom Regina of Haliburton is the Green Party candidate for the local riding. Since the last election, he has noticed a shift in local priorities and interests. /photo submitted

Regina now sits as the Central East Regional representative for the Green Party, and this will be his second election experience, with the first run in June, 2022.

Canvassing in the winter months versus the summer has come with its own wealth of difficulties. "I haven't been able to go out and about the same way I did before," Regina noted. He shared that going door-to-door - a common practice during election time - is challenging in frigid temperatures and blizzards. He also noted that adding signs around the community is next to impossible with snow drifts and plows barraging them from view, and he is concerned about the fact that poor weather could deter folks from showing up on voting days.

There's a reason most elections usually take place during warmer months.

While Haliburton County has long had a conservatively-based voter turnout, Regina says that the polls could look different this time around. "In this riding, it always seems to be a foregone conclusion," he agreed, "but there's been a lot of unhappiness with Conservatives."

In the 2022 election, the local Green Party had over a 50 per cent increase in their popularity, and while the numbers were still small, it signified a shift in interests and priorities amongst the local population. "That's showing us that a lot more people are aligned with climate and environmental priorities," noted Regina.

In terms of the outcome for the coming election, Regina says there is uncertainty. While many are directing their attention to the political strife in the United States, the concerns for politics at a local level seems to be on the backburner.

"It's a crystal ball decision," said Regina. "But I don't think it's going to turn out the way Mr. Ford wants it to."

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InOtherWords

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The Times

2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
Published by White Pine Media Corp

DAVID ZILSTRA
Publisher and Ad Director,
david.zilstra@gmail.com

JENNIFER MCEATHRON,
General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE,
Managing Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

JAMES MATTHEWS, Reporter
james@haliburtonpress.com

THOMAS SMITH, Reporter
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

REED SACHAROFF
Production

STACEY POTALIVO
Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

INSIDE SALES
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

CIRCULATION
subscriptions@haliburtonpress.com

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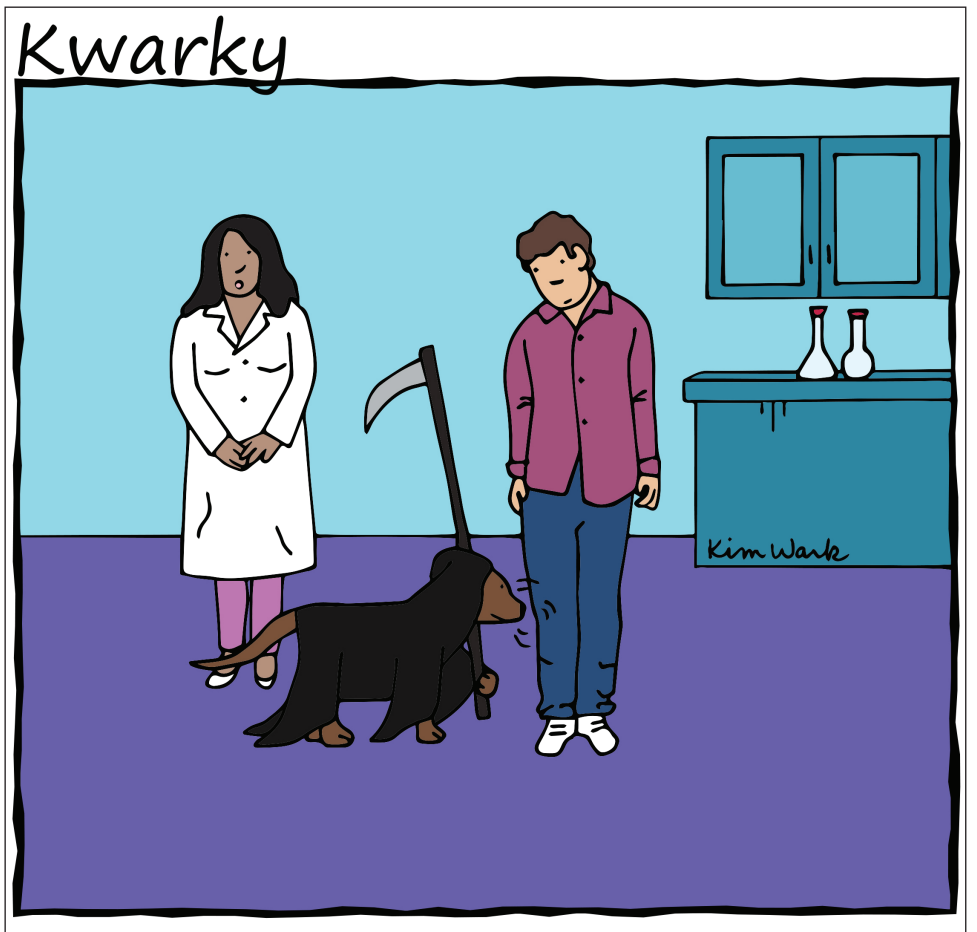


"Max is our disease-detecting service dog."

The source

AS WE enter the era of (a questionable) election time, emotions seem to be high.

They've been high for a while, really. Unprecedented results from our neighbours to the south seem to have set us on edge. And understandably so.

But as I watch trolls and talks of tariffs floating around social media, our own elections naturally slide into the conversation.

And it's good that conversations are happening, don't get me wrong.

But I don't think they're the right sort of conversations.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

So many are laced with hate and anger and fear. They're so clearly set in stone; caps lock key smashed down in an effort to scream into the void.

And I feel it too. This visceral churn in my core that wants me to spit out my feelings towards the people who have made our lives hard. Have impacted us in ways they perhaps don't even know.

But what I suggest this time of year, is to try to have the wherewithal to identify your source of anger.

What is it that makes us so fired up at election times. What grinds our gears, what churns our core?

Is it healthcare? Is it housing? Is it the cost of living? Is it equality and fairness? If so, why? What is the source of the fire in our bellies? Who are we fighting for? Is it our own needs, or those of others? Do we claw at the classes? Kick for our kids? Push for the people?

I ask this, because if we pinpoint our source, then perhaps we can compartmentalize those thoughts. Maybe we can sort them, edit them, refine and revise them, before we take to our keyboards and town halls, simply spewing hate.

And don't get me wrong, I absolutely encourage and support pushing our elected officials. Ask questions, challenge them, allow them to see your perspective.

But we need to do it the right way. Sorted, edited, refined and revised. Because your thoughts and ideas and needs and wants; they matter. But the second your words are charged with the sparks of hate, they get lost in the fire.

And if there is one thing I know from the Venn diagram of parenting and journalism, it's that people shut down when hate is used.

I've watched it happen. Shielded with my pen and a notebook as members of our community spewed anger towards those they felt have personally wronged them. And I watched as the words shot out into the room; ricocheting off the walls, sparks flying and landing on other members of the community, starting little fires all through the meeting.

It's not worth it. We don't need to personally hurt people to get what we want. We need to build people up to share in what we need.

So let us all turn to our source. Our why. Our reasons for the hurt and the anger and the hate, and why these feelings bubble to the surface. Once we can identify our why, I can guarantee, it's worth fighting for.

We just have to do it the right way. Sorted, edited, refined and revised. And let's make our voices heard.

Survivors

NOW THAT family fishing weekend is over, I think it's time to address the casualties. Relax, I am not suddenly taking up the cause of all those hapless bait fish. Instead, I am referring to the angling mothers and fathers who were brave enough to take their kids out fishing.

Look, I know we all paint a family fishing weekend as one of those rosy, wholesome activities that brings us altogether while enjoying the outdoors. And, in a Norman Rockwell kind of world, that's exactly what it is.

But on the mean streets of a backwoods ice fishing village, it's more like an episode of *Survivor* – or in extreme cases, say if you have a toddler who hates wearing his snowsuit, *Naked and Afraid*.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

The point is there are a lot of challenges – and sometimes I think our provincial government enacted this holiday to toughen us up. I mean who honestly thinks that a good holiday would feature herding kids on ice? They're fast and can turn on a dime.

All this is to say that behind all those social media posts of happy parents and kids holding fish are stories that explain why so many people buy hair colouring products in March.

I'll admit, I'm out of touch. Back in the day when I had young children that I took out fishing, I considered myself lucky if I did not come home with more than one new piercing. I also experienced at least one occasion where a child decided to see if they could stuff their 10-inch boot into a six-inch ice fishing hole – and that was the smart one.

Full disclosure: I generally ice fish in the open air, so I had it easier than most. There were no ice hut walls for the kids to climb. Or burners that they could adjust to see how high the flames went.

In hindsight, I had a bit of a cakewalk. I was only trying to keep track of two – or was it three young runny-nosed ones? And there were never any metal objects in the immediate vicinity for them to convince the youngest one to lick either.

In spite of all those challenges, there were some good memories made too.

I will admit that I felt proud and enjoyed the instances when they caught fish. And on the drive home, it was nice to hear them singing in harmony, for they made a great little quartet. Which is also when I typically realized I had been driving away with one kid too many. And it was not easy giving him back either.

Sure, my nerves were always a bit jittery by the time I got home. And I never wanted to hear about any more bottles of beer on any wall ever again. But that was nothing that couldn't be cured with a little therapy, a few episodes of night terrors, and a handful of sedatives.

Those days are all behind me now though. I'm out of touch.

Modern parenting is a lot different today from when I was doing it.

I'm sure that after this family fishing weekend, there was a lot of productive discussion about feelings, temper tantrums, unnecessary outbursts, and how we could have behaved better the next time.

But that, of course, would have been after the kids finally went to bed.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The world in Wonderland

WE HAVE fallen down the rabbit hole and are in Wonderland. The Orange King calls for the beheading of all and sundry. The White Knight as he disappears into the sunset dispenses proactive pardons to protect those who have shrunk to a size where they may be crunched beneath the marching boots of the Guards. They are cards wearing suits of hearts but have the strength of trumps. A disembodied Musky Cheshire grin wafts eerily through every orifice of the internet. The King tees off using the elongated necks and impervious heads of toadies who squabble for a place in his golf bag. The milling masses munch on this and tipple on that with the hope that it will make them big or little as survival requires.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

Ken McGoogan, in his 17th book, *Shadows of Tyranny: Defending Democracy in an Age of Dictatorship*, turns from piecing together the mystery of where and how the good ship *Erebus* found its final resting spot beneath the polar ice, to using his rigorous journalistic research to an even more chilling story, describing the details of the decade that led inevitably, it seemed, to the rise of authoritarianism and the carnage of the Second World War. The parallels to the present are allowed largely to speak for themselves, with the occasional 'Ya think?' Wink wink ... He entitles the epilogue *Where Is Our Churchill?* which could be what the carillon on Parliament Hill is chiming these days.

We are having our Chamberlain moment: surely the threat of invasion is jest. Surely appeasement will work. Surely we can negotiate a deal. Surely he will keep his word.

We are having our ideological debates. Then it was confusion about communism and fascism, the right and the left, whatever it was that was happening in Spain; now it is the dialectic between progressivism and libertarianism – when does one become the other? Word games persist: the woke are the commies of our time, verb-the-noun jingoism is mainstream, isms reproduce like fleas. We have become more inclusive in defining threats to our economic and cultural lives – could be job-stealing immigrants, could be greedy Boomers, could be lazy Millennials and privileged GenXers – but we are moving aggressively into a we-they, win-lose world.

We have had our Golden Age of Capitalism. We have anthropomorphized corporations by attributing to them DNA that requires they relentlessly grow profit (even though we know that wonky genes that result in unconstrained growth in the human body is called cancer and is fatal). We have created zombies, creatures to whom we have granted the legal rights of humans but without inherent ethics. We outsourced that constraint to government – it's government's job to make business behave -- while neutering its capability by requiring it to be businesslike rather than statesmanlike. We expect it to manufacture money to solve any problem business creates, any problem business chooses not to solve, any element that threatens the well-being or existence of business. And then we chide government for failing to solve the ills that we accept as inherent in business: mismanagement, inefficiency, chicanery, fraud, greed. When business takes care of itself, and government takes care of business, who takes care of humanity? Ah, that's the question.

We have the opportunity to follow or resist. McGoogan deals with war itself more than the economy that caused it. He canvases the writers who sought to name what was happening in the hopes of influencing the outcome, or in any case help people understand the inexplicable and make choices accordingly. He empathizes with the choices people made and re-made as their perceptions changed – then, like now, is a time of great confusion and chaos. He acknowledges that many did what they thought they should do, like hiking off to battle, without really making a choice. He respects that they persevered when the path became difficult because that's what they'd signed up to do. Leaders need followers and leaders need resistors, but the line between the two is not always clear -- at the time, for sure, but not even with the wisdom of hindsight.

Mark Twain said 'History doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes.' We live in a time of discernible rhyme.

Minden Memories

Aerial view of the Stevenson farmhouse and barn which still sit on the property of Archie Stouffer Elementary School. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

A safe snowmobile season comes down to risk-free riding

As Ontario Snowmobile Safety Week kicks off, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) are reminding snowmobilers that making each ride risk-free gives them their best chance of safely making it through the season.

The risky driving behaviours that lead to snowmobile fatalities are the same ones year after year, as reflected in the OPP's data.

Over the past 10 snowmobile seasons (2014/15 to 2023/24), 145 snowmobilers have lost their lives in OPP jurisdictions. Excessive speed, in particular driving too fast for the conditions, as well as alcohol impairment were among the leading causes or contributing factors in the fatalities. Driver inattention and lack of helmet use are among other factors that have cost snowmobilers their lives in the last decade.

Every year, snowmobilers take unnecessary risks on frozen waterways. With close to 40 per cent of the 145 fatalities occurring on frozen lakes and rivers, these locations account for the highest number of snowmobile deaths.

Riders are reminded that frozen lakes and rivers carry an inherent degree of uncertainty about how safe they are and the only way to ensure one›s safety is to avoid frozen waterways altogether.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment on the part of OFSC Snowmobile Clubs, Ontario snowmobilers have access to an expansive network of trails. Through the OFSC Interactive Trail Guide (ITG), riders can obtain real-time trail status information to help them choose a safe, enjoyable trail for their next riding adventure.

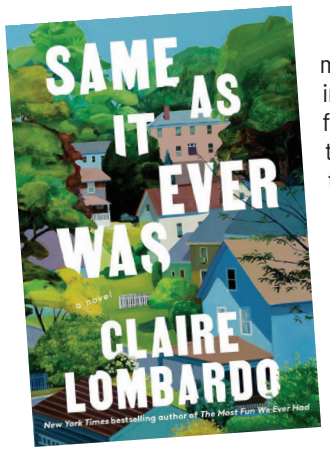
Snowmobilers are reminded that it's against the law to access and ride on OFSC trails that are unavailable (all those highlighted in red on the ITG).

With Ontario Snowmobile Safety Week running from Feb. 10 to 17, 2025, riders are encouraged to get up to date on what they need to do to keep themselves, their passengers and fellow riders safe throughout the season.

For more information about the OFSC and snowmobile safety, visit: www.ofsc.on.ca/safety/.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week



Julia Ames has found herself on the placid plateau of mid-life. Having nearly derailed herself several times, making desperate bids for the kind of connection that always felt inaccessible to her, she finally feels, at age fifty-seven, that she has a firm handle on things. She's unprepared, though, for what comes next: a surprise announcement from her straight-arrow son, an impending separation from her spikey teenaged daughter, and a seductive resurgence of the past, all of which threaten to draw her back into the patterns that had previously kept her on a razor's edge.

Same As It Ever Was by Claire Lombardo is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Love around the world: the Devolins' story

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Love isn't linear.

It has twists and turns, bumps and bends.

And sometimes, it can span across continents and oceans.

But it's still always there.

That's something that has become clear for Barry and Ursula Devolin.

The couple has been married for 31 years, but their lives have been intertwined for even longer than that.

"When my parents first moved to Haliburton," recalled Barry, "they only knew one couple: John and Linda Beachli."

The Beachli's are Ursula's parents, and are deeply ingrained into the fabrics of Haliburton County, much like the Devolins were, once they settled into the community many years ago.

At one point, Barry was working with Ursula's mom, Linda, at Remax, and his brother, Brent, was working with John.

By 1993, Barry and Ursula made it official. At the time, she was in her first year of studies at the University of Ottawa, and Barry was starting to get involved in politics; a move that would map out the next few years in his career.

The two got married on Aug. 2, 1993, at St. Anthony's in Minden, with the reception held at Deer Lodge. "It was a really big wedding," recalled Ursula. They reflected on a column written by the *Echo's* own Sharon Lynch, titled "The Summer Wedding" that paid tribute to the newlyweds.

And while their family's roots ran deep in Haliburton County, Barry and Ursula were eager to hit the road. "In those first ten years of marriage," noted Ursula, "we moved thirteen times."

In 1996, they settled in Korea, where Barry started teaching at a university, and Ursula worked with after school programs. "We always thought to ourselves, what adventures can we have?" asked Barry. "And the randomness of those choices led to a life-long passion of travel, together."

Barry shared that his spark for travel was always lit; starting with a Rotary exchange he participated in at the age of 16. "From that point on, all my extra cash was spent on travel," he laughed.

For Ursula, while she loves the sense of adventure, she recognizes that she needs a home-base to make travels run a little smoother. "Haliburton is my anchor," she said. "I don't mind floating away, but I need to be tethered somewhere."

The couple's shared love of travel was a trait they were sure to pass on to their children: George and Molly, who are now in their 20s, but have already led a life fuelled by adventure.

"When the kids were 11 and 13, we took them on a 19 country tour," said Ursula. "Six months around the world." Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Australia; the family backpacked and traipsed around all the corners of the globe.

And while they made sure to keep up with homeschooling requirements, the Devolins believe that their kids got the best education from seeing the world. "We went to a bunch of places we knew," said Barry, "but we also went to a bunch of places we didn't know. And now, they have such a broad context of the world around them."

While Barry and Ursula worked separately for many years - Barry as an educator and a variety of roles in politics, and Ursula with the Water Ambassadors locally - they now find themselves in a place in their lives where their shared passion of travel is overlapping.

Fuelled by memories of the round-the-world trip that he had planned with his kids, Barry launched Travel Maven in 2018, which is specifically guided tours developed for independent travellers. The intention is to offer a detailed itinerary and some structure to trans-continental trips, while allowing the travellers to explore and experience at their own pace.

And with business booming, Ursula has stepped in to help Barry expand and grow.

In fact, this whole interview was conducted via Zoom, while the Devolins watched the sunset in Kruger Safari in South Africa. While I was bundled in a scarf and listening to my kids discuss the movie choices for the second snow day in a row, Barry and Ursula were shoulder to shoulder in t-shirts, with a warm, pinkish light shadowing their faces.

On the date of the interview, it was their last day together with their group in South Africa. The following day, Ursula was headed off to meet another group, with Barry continuing on through the safari. Love isn't linear. It has twists and turns, bumps and bends.

And sometimes, it can span across continents and oceans.

But it's always still there.

"If you really share interests with someone," says Barry, "that's so critically important."

Right place, right time: Rachel and Jenna's story

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

In 2016, Jenna De Guzman had just graduated from university in Halifax, and was on her way out to a promising job opportunity in Alberta.

In the middle, she spent two months in the Toronto area, visiting family and friends. At the time, she was using a dating app, Tinder, which identifies fellow singles in the area. One night, while she was driving through a neighbourhood she hadn't visited before in the city, she got a notification that she had a match in that area. The app is geographically-based, so location is key.

"It was serendipity," smiled Jenna.

It was the right place, right time for the app to match Jenna with Rachel Morgan, who was at a crossroads in her life, and navigating her next steps in Toronto.

The two decided to meet for the first time shortly after the match, at a little cafe near Rachel's apartment. "It was five minutes away from her place," laughed Jenna, "and she was still late."

Rachel had been going through some personal challenges; including her beloved dog being diagnosed with cancer. "I wasn't in a place to date at the time," she said, "but I remember that before we met, Jenna was texting me, and she referenced my dog, and said she understands me, and I thought that was really cool."

So Rachel decided to go ahead with the date, "and I remember I was wearing really geeky glasses," she chuckled, "and yes, I was late, but I walked in and saw her, and just thought she looked so cool."

"I was totally awestruck," said Jenna, her face mirroring the way she looked; jaw-dropped.

The two had an adventurous first date: drinks, an escape room at Casa Loma, meeting one another's friends, karaoke in the car.

And deep down, they already knew. "I kept thinking about how this is going to suck that I am only here for two months," said Jenna.

The couple decided to play it cool; Rachel easing her way back into the dating world after being burned a few times, and Jenna knowing that she wasn't in a place to commit to anything long term, considering the expiration date on her Ontario visit. "But a week before she was leaving, she mumbled 'I love you,' and then we knew we were in it," said Rachel.

They agreed to try long distance, with Jenna headed out west, and Rachel sticking to Ontario, but after only a few short months, they knew they couldn't be without one another. During a visit to Niagara Falls, Rachel was ready to make it official.

It was during a wine and bike tour, "and I was just waiting for the right moment to ask her," she shared, referencing the shiny ring she had packed in her purple backpack.

She found the moment at sunset, on a rickety dock at a winery, and although the future was uncertain with the span of Canada between them, Jenna said yes to a lifetime with Rachel.

Following their engagement, Rachel moved out to Alberta to join Jenna, and they learned the true meaning of growing together. "We had spent the majority of our relationship doing long distance," said Jenna, "so we had learned to communicate without seeing body language. I think that helped us a lot."

With Jenna being an extrovert and Rachel happily introverted, they ran into some problems early on, but knew that they cared about each other enough to power through. "We're very different people, but we had rules in place," said Rachel. "Boundaries are important," agreed Jenna, "and we always just made sure we felt safe around one another."

The two were married in 2019 at the Bonnie View Inn in Haliburton, but returned out west for work. By 2022, though, they were ready to come home. "I needed a break," said Rachel, citing some personal challenges she had encountered, "I just needed a month to be surrounded by family."

The couple returned home, and while Rachel was casually looking for work, she spotted a job as an occupational therapist, which is the exact field that Jenna was looking for work in. "And that's when we knew that it was officially time to move home," said Jenna.

Happily settled into the community, with a home in Minden and jobs they love, Jenna and Rachel are looking ahead; hoping to start a family, and continue their adventures together. "I'm always open to different possibilities in the future," said Jenna, "but right now, this is where we are supposed to be."

Disco dancing, lobsters, and a log cabin: the Martins' story

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The Frost Centre in Algonquin Highlands has captivated many over the years. The towering buildings off Highway 35, headed towards Dorset, have sat empty for some years.

But prior to that, it was a hustling and bustling hub of youth and activity.

Originally built in 1944, the Frost Centre was known as the Ranger School, as it was built in collaboration between the Province of Ontario and the University of Toronto Faculty of Forestry, to educate government officials and university students through both in-class sessions, and amongst the great outdoors.

By 1969, the purpose of the facility shifted gears slightly, when the curriculum was taken over by Ontario's colleges and universities. In 1974, the Ontario Premier at the time, William G. Davis, officially called the education centre the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre, and it became the first outdoor facility completely dedicated to environmental education in Ontario.

Enter: Barrie Martin. The year is 1976, and Barrie had recently graduated from the University of Guelph. He was starting a project that focused on bird populations around the area, which had a start time of 5 a.m. each day.

He didn't see much of the other young professionals, considering the early start time, but occasionally, he joined some of them at Deerhurst Resort, to go disco dancing.

It was here that he met Pat, who was also spending her first summer working at the Frost Centre, and the two would dance the nights away over that hazy 1970s summer.

By the time fall rolled around, they each went back to their respective lives and jobs in different cities, but by the summer of 1977, they had reconnected. "It was very pleasant to find out my dance partner was back," chuckled Barrie.

That summer, the two of them went to a lobster party (which is exactly what it sounds like, I asked,) and they decided to turn their friendship into something a little more official. In fact, they weren't the only ones who found love that summer at the Frost Centre. Five other couples also got together, and still remain together today; celebrating their anniversaries with one another, and maintaining close dynamics with the original group.

"It was a very sociable time at the Frost Centre," recalled Barrie, referencing Halloween parties, dance lessons, and a wide variety of activities. He stayed on to work at the facility for 28 years as an education specialist.

Following her Frost Centre years, Pat got a job in Richmond Hill, but by 1980, she was offered another position farther south, and she had a decision to make.

She decided to move back to Haliburton, where she and Barrie were married. They purchased an old log house in West Guilford, and by 1983, they had their first son, Aaron, followed by their second, Adrian, at the end of 1987. "The love of the land kept us in Haliburton," said Barrie.

The couple became deeply ingrained into the community, with Barrie working on a variety of tourism initiatives, including Trails and Tours, and Pat stepping into the role of planner for Dysart et al. "We always had a really good balance between our personal lives, and our couple lives," shared Pat, thinking back on their 45 years of marriage.

In 2004, the Frost Centre officially closed its doors, and with it, the memories and adventures that so many had experienced there over the years.

Barrie was able to shift gears, and founded the well-known tourism company, Yours Outdoors, which still operates today out of Haliburton Forest. This gave him the opportunity to become even more intrinsically woven into the community of Haliburton, and was able to showcase the best of the best across the Highlands, and beyond.

After a decade of diving deep into the local tourism landscape, Barrie made the decision to retire about a year ago. And while he and Pat have hung up their professional hats, the two now see this as an opportunity to continue to experience life together. "You have to be with someone who shares your values," said Pat. "Yes," Barrie agreed, as we sipped tea in the log home they had started their family in, 45 years ago. "We get to do more things together, now. We like the flexibility of being retired, even if we are both still active in the community."

The two cited friendship, communications, and companionship as their core values for making a relationship succeed, for 45 years and beyond.

And now that their busy lives are entering this new stage of retirement, maybe they can go disco dancing once again.

2ND ANNUAL
ALL ARE WELCOME
Family Fun Day
AT THE MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE
MHCC FOUNDATION
WHEN: FAMILY DAY, 12 - 2 P.M.
WHERE: 176 BOBCAYGEON RD, MINDEN
Crafts, food, student art show, nature programs and exhibits
MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member as a Board Community Member on one of the Board's Standing Committees.
At a minimum, Board Community Member should expect to devote approximately 4-6 hours of time per month, including attendance at committee meetings (about 9 per year) held in-person and/or virtually.

Annual Board Community Member recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds**.

At HHHS, we recognize and respect the contributions that a diverse team can make to our healthcare system. We welcome candidates of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities to apply. If you require assistance or accommodations in the process, please contact Michel Henry for prompt support.

How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Community Member Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **March 1, 2025**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at:
www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
Special Council Meetings

2025 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

TAKE NOTICE that Council will conduct its 2025 budget deliberations during Special Meetings commencing at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- **Thursday, February 27, 2025**
- **Friday, February 28, 2025**

The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands.

Members of the Public may also observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal/

Dated this 12th day of February, 2025.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
T: (705) 489-2379 x333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Follow me on Facebook!
Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Youth Unlimited Gym Nights
When: Mar 7 - Sports and Dodgeball 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Apr 4 - Sports and 9 Square 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
For Grades 6-12. For more info contact haliburton@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

Minden Ice Races Schedule 2025
When: Feb. 15-16, Feb. 22-23, and Mar. 1-2
Where: Minden Fairgrounds
The ice races will be located at the Minden Fairgrounds. Spectator admission is free. Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Experience adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track!

"Understanding Addictions: How to give support through challenging times"
When: Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.
Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton
You are invited to a discussion with community members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, who will tell us some of their stories and about the 12-step path as a road to recovery. This is part of a continuing series on "Making our Communities Better Places", and will be opened with music by Rich Anton and Gord Kidd. Open to all, no admission charge, light refreshments provided. Hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Recurring Events

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street
Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Everyone welcome

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Dominion Hotel; using Canada Beef to help food banks

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

In a time where consuming Canadian is of the utmost importance, Shawn Chamberlin of the Dominion Hotel has just the thing: Hell of a Burg.

The unique offering from the oldest establishment in the county is a part of February's Burger-It-Forward, a nationwide initiative focused on raising money for food banks across Canada. The Dominion is one of 200 fellow restaurants across the nation, and has participated in the campaign for the past three years.

"I think we have some momentum on it now," said Chamberlin. "It was a little slow before, but people are starting to recognize it. But it always takes a little time to get things off the ground."

The program is put on by Canada Beef and the provincial cattle associations, and for every Hell of a Burg purchased during February, Canada Beef will donate the equivalent of one meal to Food Banks Canada, up to a maximum of 20,000 meals.

While the partnering organization is providing relief on a national scale, Chamberlin wants to give back at a local level, as well. "The Dominion Hotel will match this amount in a cash donation to our local food bank," said Chamberlin.

The custom Dominion offering is an eight ounce Canadian Beef patty topped with cheddar cheese, back bacon, jalapeños, pickles, red onion, tomato slices, lettuce and chipotle barbecue sauce, served on a toasted sesame seed bun. "We are always using Ontario beef," said Chamberlin. "We're as close to using all Canadian as you can possibly get." The special burger will be available for the month of February, at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. "It's a great way to bring people together, and have a little fun," said Chamberlin. "Plus, anything we can do for our community is a good thing. And this is a great cause."

The Dominion's contribution to the cross-Canada fundraiser for local food banks. /photo submitted

Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame; Call for nominations

Few community events create the level of enthusiasm as a Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame inauguration. Our county has been home to extraordinary athletes who have brought distinction and honour to themselves and the community. When hundreds of athletes, team members, builders, coaches, families and neighbours gather under one roof to recognize sporting excellence, the energy is undeniable. Last June, community spirit soared as the athletes were piped in, followed by a beautiful rendition of *Oh Canada* by Ella Gooley. Applause resounded as inductees accepted their awards. A highlight was the heartfelt welcome for the 1971 Hal High football champs. Many of them flew back to their hometown from far away for the ceremony. Finally, there was an outpouring of emotion for our Red Wolves and their coaches who prove year after year the importance of inclusiveness in sport.

Nominations are now open for the next inauguration. If you know an individual, team or builder from the Haliburton Highlands whose endeavours in any field of sports is worthy of recognition, the HH Sports Hall of Fame Committee want your input. The nomination period for the 2026 ceremony will be open from Jan. 1 until Sept. 30, 2025. Look for the nomination form provided on their website (hhshoff.ca). Eligible sports include all forms of physical activity which aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, involve organized participation, and provide opportunities for obtaining results in competition. There are three categories.

Athletes: An individual connected with any sport, who has attained significant recognition and/or fame in or for the Haliburton Highlands, over a period of five years or more. An athlete must have been retired from active participation in the sport(s) for which they are nominated for a period of at least three years, or if still active, have attained the age of 40.

Builders: An individual who has served as a coach, manager, trainer, game official, executive member, administrator or sponsor or played another significant role to the advancement of sport.

Teams: Any team based in Haliburton County. The team must have achieved a high degree of success at the local, district and (if the opportunity existed) provincial or national level. Teams which have had a long period of success over many years at the local level will also be considered.

For all categories: Written nominations and supporting documents are to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame by Sept. 30, 2025. If you send a draft submission prior to Aug. 31, they can provide feedback and identify what else you could add to strengthen your submission. Strong submissions include things like photographs, newspaper articles, statistical data, awards, etc. Supportive letters from coaches and teammates are also helpful. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact: Klara Oyler, Secretary, Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame: klaraoyler@sympatico.ca

Visit the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame at two locations. The Community Hall, 2nd floor in the A. J. LaRue Community Centre, 728 Mountain St., Haliburton and SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena, 55 Parkside St., Minden. Sport continues to be an important part of highland culture and the committee looks forward to considering your nominations.

Submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	9	3	7	6	1	4	2	8
8	1	6	9	4	2	5	7	3
4	7	2	8	3	5	6	1	9
6	5	1	3	9	8	2	4	7
7	3	9	2	5	4	8	6	1
2	4	8	1	7	6	3	9	5
3	6	4	5	1	9	7	8	2
1	2	7	6	8	3	9	5	4
9	8	5	4	2	7	1	3	6

Elections Spotlight: Candidate Debate set for Sunday

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16 the Re-Open the Minden ER group is hosting a candidates debate at the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside St., Minden). This provides residents with the opportunity to hear directly from Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock candidates and ask important questions about issues affecting our community. Make an informed decision on who you're going to vote for.

Pre-registration recommended

Due to facility capacity, attendance will be limited for safety reasons. To secure a spot, pre-register by emailing save.minden.er@gmail.com. A portion of seats will be left available for first-come, first-serve walk-ins.

Pre-submit questions

We expect a lively and engaging discussion, so if you have questions, you'd like candidates to address, send them in advance to save.minden.er@gmail.com.

For updates, follow the Re-open the Minder ER Facebook page.

Don't miss this chance to engage with your local candidates.

For more information please contact: Patrick Porzuczek Spokesperson/Founder of Minden Matters and Re-Open the Minden ER, 905-380-5375 / save.minden.er@gmail.com.

Submitted

Huskies Hockey

The Huskies faced off against the Toronto Jr. Canadiens on Feb. 8 at the SG Nesbitt Arena in Minden. Despite a hard-fought game, the home team fell to the Canadiens 6-3. The next local game is scheduled for Feb. 15 against North York. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Red Truck Red Ale

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An open letter from the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is aware that mistaken information regarding our Highlands Corridor initiative is presently circulating across social media. While we welcome public conversation regarding all of our work, it is essential that those conversations be based on accurate facts. We are pleased to provide the necessary corrections here so that you, as a community member, can answer any questions that you or your friends and neighbours may have.

The large land area recognized as the Highlands Corridor comprises private property, Crown Land, and provincial parks. The misunderstanding on social media arises from the land trust advocating for a Conservation Reserve designation on certain segments of Crown Land. A Conservation Reserve restricts forestry, mining and aggregate industry use of the land, but does not impact recreational use. To be specific:

The three provincial parks falling within the Corridor would continue to be governed as they currently are by Ontario Parks.

The areas of Crown Land that are currently managed through Crown Land patents for logging and aggregate extraction would continue to be managed as they are at present, and would not fall under the Conservation Reserve designation. These industries are an important piece of our local economy that HHLT supports.

Only those areas of Crown Land comprised of intact forest and wetland with high ecological value and low industrial value are being advocated for the Conservation Reserve designation. These will be areas where the logging, mining and aggregate companies agree that there is little to no economic value to their industries.

The Land Trust has been a topic of discussion on social media in regards to their Highlands Corridor, but the organization is seeking to set the record straight. /FILE

Private property would not fall under the Conservation Reserve designation and would not be impacted. Private property owners would continue to be welcome to participate in the Land Trust's Partners in Conservation program should they wish to learn more about supporting ecosystem health on their own properties.

We choose to advocate for conservation reserves because trail use on motorized vehicles or by foot is allowed in a conservation reserve. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are also allowed. We recognize these heritage and outdoor activities are important in our community and for tourism, and they keep our economy vibrant. We support their ongoing use on Crown Land designated as a Conservation Reserve. Only logging, the development of new quarries, and mining would be prohibited in the designated sections.

With regard to the sources of information that have been cited in social media posts, it is important to clarify that Ontario Nature is a registered charity, not a regulating agency. While it has established regulations concerning public use of its own private properties, these regulations are not provincially mandated and would not apply in the Corridor. Similarly, Ontario Parks manages provincial parks to a much higher standard of protection than Conservation Reserves, so the public use guidelines outlined on the Ontario Parks website would not apply to the proposed Conservation Reserve land. Only provincial legislation directly concerning Conservation Reserves has any authority over these spaces. HHLT would have neither the power to set rules, nor the authority to manage or in any way control what happens in those areas.

Our ability to get out in nature -- be it on foot, on skis or ATV or dirt bike, to hunt or to fish -- is precisely what HHLT seeks to promote and protect through the establishment of Conservation Reserve spaces throughout the corridor. By designating these spaces as Conservation Reserves we are safeguarding the health of these pristine forests and wetlands and ensuring the public's enjoyment of them for generations to come.

Please visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/2025/02/highlands-corridor-clarification/ for a full FAQ on HHLT's work in the Highlands Corridor.

Submitted

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LISA MERCER
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lisa@lisamercer.ca
cell: 705.457.0364
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SUDOKU

	9	3			1			
			9		2			
					5	6	1	
6			3			2		7
				5				
	4						9	5
		4					8	
1	2					9	5	
			4		7			

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 10

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Has Ford's government made any of these sectors better?
Has Laurie Scott actively and fiercely fought to save our hospitals and improve our local economy?

We are in a bad relationship with the current government. So many red flags, so many expensive broken promises. It's time to end it and find a new relationship with a government that cares about you, your family and your communities.

For seven years, Doug Ford has failed on the cost of living, housing, education, healthcare and more. Ford's failures and bad deals have left Ontario's economy weaker, and the families who live here vulnerable. We need to make Ontario stronger and more resilient so we can withstand this crisis and move beyond it. Vote for change because you and your family deserve a good life.

NDP Ready to Commit

Standing up for public healthcare by hiring 3500 more doctors over the next 4 years and connecting every Ontarian to community-based primary care teams, while cutting wait times and surgical backlogs. Reopening Minden ER and supporting our hospitals.

NDP has a plan to fix schools, hire skilled staff with fair wages, feed kids and make sure that every single student has the tools they need to succeed.

Families are trying to keep up with the rising cost of groceries so NDP will help offset those costs with a monthly grocery rebate, as well as a plan to tackle price gouging and building a more tariff-proof economy. Our communities' most vulnerable citizens, about 7% of the population, aren't meeting their basic needs, so NDP will double the rates for ODSP and OW recipients.

Whether you are renting or paying a mortgage, you should be able to afford a good home in the community you want to live in. We will double the supply of non-market subsidized housing by 2031, bring back real rent control and work through a variety of initiatives at all levels of government to get truly affordable homes built in our communities.

VOTE

I will fight for you!

Barbara.Doyle@ontariondp.ca

website barbaradoyle.ontariondp.ca

DONATE https://act.ontariondp.ca/donate/hkb

BARBARA DOYLE

Authorized by the CFO for the Barbara Doyle Campaign

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Sleeping in Cars sets a date

Get ready to make a difference! March 21, 2025, marks the date for #SleepingInCars2025, a unique event to raise funds for affordable housing in Haliburton County. Participants and sponsors are invited to spend a night in their cars with Places For People (P4P). Together, we can ensure everyone in our community has a place to call home.

In response to the Ontario government's $200 tax rebate, P4P is encouraging those who can to consider donating these funds to help us address the urgent need for affordable housing in our County. As a registered charity, every donation goes directly toward supporting this vital cause.

This year, we're aiming to surpass last year's incredible fundraising total of $30,000. P4P President Susan Tromanhauser hopes to raise at least $40,000, building on the success of previous years when donations were doubled. Let's make it happen!

#TakeTheChallenge

Fay Martin, founder of Places For People, invites individuals and teams to join the challenge. It's simple—send us a photo or video of you with your sleeping bag and a cheque (if you're donating) beside your car. Challenge your friends and competitors to join us. For full event details, visit placesforpeople.ca and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates.

Thank you to ACM

We are thrilled to announce that ACM Design will once again be leading as our Event Sponsor for #SleepingInCars2025. Their generous support is making this event possible, and we are so grateful for their continued partnership.

A Community That Cares

Haliburton County, one of Ontario's most economically challenged areas, consistently shows that it has heart. Places For People operates entirely through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, and we'd like to thank everyone who contributes to our work—whether through volunteering, donating, or supporting our initiatives.

P4P now owns and operates 20 affordable units in Haliburton County in all four townships. The plan is to pay off the mortgages for the existing units and begin the process of collaborating with others in the community to develop new affordable housing options.

According to Roland Lange, Chair of the P4P Property Management Committee, "We're currently working with Longview Services who help charitable organizations like P4P to assess our most recent property acquisition, with the goal of improving energy efficiency and upgrading the building to meet community needs."

The Origins of SleepingInCars

Tromanhauser reflects on the history of the event: "We started #SleepingInCars to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing in Haliburton. But as the housing crisis has deepened we've come to recognize that worker housing is a critical part of the solution. The event has evolved into an essential way for our community to engage with the issue and support our mission."

Sponsorship Opportunities

Businesses interested in supporting the event through sponsorship packages can reach out to the Haliburton County BIA or by contacting nataly@placesforpeople.ca

Join us in showing that when everyone has a place to call home, we all thrive.

Submitted

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024055:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull River lying in front of 33 Laxton Lutterworth Boundary Road, located within Part Lot 28, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than March 14, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than March 14, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Looking for a date this Valentine's Day?

HSF 25 YEARS Live Theatre!
Highlands Summer Festival

Premium Orchestra Seats, including lounge access, to a Canadian Opera Company production at the Four Season Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto OR tickets to a Haliburton Huskies game at the SG Nesbitt Arena in Minden.....decisions…. decisions. Which do you choose? Well, this weekend you could just score both. How so, you ask?

Both of these fabulous items, and many more will be up for grabs at our quarter century celebration "Loving 25 years … a Festival of music with Cabaret and Karaoke" on Friday, February 14th at the Haliburton Legion on Mountain Street, Haliburton. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. and tickets are $25.00 each.

First it promises to be an explosion of outstanding performances from talented members of the HSF company, past and present, as they share some of their favourite songs from musical theatre. To cap off the stage portion of the evening, we'll open the microphone to highlight the hidden talents in the room and invite you to strut your stuff with a session of Karaoke.

During the evening excitement ensues with our Silent Auction - with prizes including 13 pairs of tickets to live events in Southern Ontario, plus generously donated gift items from business and individual supporters in our community. You will also enjoy the Toonie Auction, 50/50 draw and door prize while pondering your favourite sweet on the treat table.

Tickets are selling fast but can still be securely purchased online at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca - or by calling the box office at 705-457-9933 or 855-457-9933 and, if there are any left, at the door on the night of the performance.

It is bound to be a fun-filled evening, a perfect way to treat your Valentine to a night on the town and support HSF's 25 years of presenting live theatre and musical performances in the Haliburton Highlands.

For more information, about this event or about Highlands Summer Festival, contact Rita Jackson at 416-277-2035.

Submitted

25 YEARS ... the drama, comedy & music continues!

Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday

170 FOR SALE

2012 Subaru Outback, 6cyl, auto. 250,000 kms. Uncertified. $2,500.00 Call **705-447-2348** or email **dusty2348@gmail.com**

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280 ITEMS WANTED

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Please call **705-286-3758** or cell **249-332-1212**

300 FOR RENT

Fully furnished house in downtown Minden with shared accommodations or just a room. Rent negotiable. Willing to help a single parent with a child. No Smoking No Pets Allowed. Call **705-935-0400** or email **herbert56123@gmail.com**

320 HOUSE/APARTMENT WANTED

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380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

SELF CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent, discounts available located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. **CALL 705-457-1224**

540 COMING EVENTS

Stained Glass Workshops. From beginner up. Registration open now. Learn the art of stained glass. Call Tom for details. **705-286-3628**

Call to enter - the Tour de Forest summer art tour is looking for a variety of participants in both studio and guest artists. Please download application form from haliburtontourdeforest.com. Deadline is February 16th, 2025. For more information contact Laurie at **705-754-0444** or TdeFjurying@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE

All proceeds are headed to Minden Cat Angels

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH 9AM -3PM

Treats for $2.00 and $3.00 or get 6/$10.00 and 6/$15.00

TREAT YOUR VALENTINE TO A YUMMY HOMEMADE TEAT AND SUPPORT A LOCAL SHELTER!

4 Booth St. Minden

570 NOTICES

THANKS TO ST. JUDE AND THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS for favours received. May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. This prayer has never failed, and your prayers will be answered. Publication must be promised. C.C.

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Payroll/Benefit Administrator

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer the Payroll/Benefit Administrator coordinates and administers the County's payroll, benefit, and pension programs along with onboarding and leave activities.

The successful candidate will hold a college diploma in Business or Payroll Administration or other related field and possess 3 years of related municipal experience. The hourly wage range for this non-union position is $35.09 - $41.05. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 26, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The interview evaluation process will include a practical skills component.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Home Game

NORTH YORK RANGERS VS HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Saturday, Feb. 15 - 4 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

For more information please visit our website

WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Minden Times
Classifieds
Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Will You Join the Board of the Minden Community Food Centre?

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity working to reduce food insecurity for those in need, is seeking a new volunteer to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communication skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills.

We are looking for an individual to assume the position of Recording Secretary on the Board. Relevant skills include attention to detail, organizational skills to manage records, the ability to take accurate notes at our monthly meetings, and familiarity with Microsoft Word.

If you have the skills, time, and experience, we would like to hear from you by F**ebruary 15, 2025.** Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interest in the position of Recording Secretary and your background, skill set, and experience.

Send your e-mail to
mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Barbara Ellen Trocewicz

Passed away peacefully on Monday, February 3, 2025 at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care in Minden in her 91st year.

Predeceased by her parents Sydney Jordan and Dorothy Southern (nee Hutchinson), husbands Paul Scheller and Henry Trocewicz, brother Walter (Donna) Jordan, and sister-in-law Phyllis (Sidney) Jordan. Barb will be missed by her children Wendy (Jim) Anderson, Martin (Carolyn) Scheller, Peter (Debbie) Trocewicz and Veronica (Geoff) Zinner, granddaughters Natalie (Seth) Anderson and Rachel Anderson, great-granddaughter Cadence McDonough, brother Sidney (Alice) Jordan, sister Marjorie (Ron) Robinson, and many half siblings, nieces, and nephews.

Barb loved her family, her community and her church. Born in Toronto, she was active in the altar guild and choir at St. Crispin's Scarborough for over 20 years, and skilfully designed and embroidered vestments and altar linens for churches in the north. In 1976, the family moved to Carnarvon, where Barb and Henry owned and operated the Old Mill Cottages until 2016. Barb became active in every aspect of St. Paul's Minden and its satellite churches, and through her untiring and unwavering faith and outstanding dedication as Lay Pastoral Assistant, she was honoured with the Order of the Diocese of Toronto in 2016. Barb has left her mark on family and friends with her infectious spirit, her spontaneity and sense of fun, her generosity, her love of singing and her beautiful smile.

The family thanks the doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers at Hyland Crest who have been so kind and caring towards Barb over the past 5-1/2 years, especially during covid.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden in the spring.

Donations may be made to the Minden Community Food Centre and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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In Loving Memory of
Gail Elaine Chezzie

Passed away peacefully on Friday, February 7, 2025 at the Haliburton Hospital after a short illness.

Sadly missed by her husband of 57 years Robert Chezzie, daughters Leanne (Michael) Chezzie and Christine (Steven) Draaistra, granddaughters and great grandsons.

Private Family arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) in Gail's name would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Restructuring frustrations

Victoria County residents hungry to be heard

It may be out of their hands and they likely will have little influence on the decision of Commissioner Harry Kitchen, but more than 150 residents of northern Victoria County crowded into the Coboconk Legion Tuesday to demonstrate they do care about what happens to their municipalities.

The occasion was the first public meeting following the release of the Commissioner's draft report. In the document, while he recognizes a number of options, he expresses his own preference for a single tier government serving all of the county. The draft report indicates that there are three options under consideration: (1) a single government for the entire county; (2) A two tier system, similar to what is currently in place, however with fewer municipal governments in the lower tier; three or four have been suggested; (3) dividing the county into separate municipalities, (three or four) with no upper tier.

Kitchen explained the philosophy he was bringing to the decision making process: the cost impact; principles of assigning services; and the best practises found in other areas where restructuring has take place. "I am not here to count ballots," he told the audience. He said that appling his principles to the situation in Victoria County led him to conclude that a single tier was the best option. But he admitted that the majority of written submissions he received so far have favoured a two tier municipal government structure.

While his analysis might have favoured the single tier, it was clearly not the choice of the members of the audience. Speaker after speaker came to the front of the room to take issue with Kitchen's findings, methodology or recommendation. Interestingly, the lone voice to favour the single tier came from the county's most powerful politician, Laxton, Digby, Longford Reeve and Victoria County Warden John Machlem.

Emphasizing that he was speaking as an individual, not for either of the councils he leads, Machlem told the meeting, "I believe only one tier government is the answer." He said the one level of government would provide a single identity across the county, reduce friction between various regions and eliminate the dual responsibility that elected official face in being municipal representatives at the county council table. He said his calculations indicated implementing the single tier would result in savings of up to $7.5 million. This contrasts

(more on page 4)

ROSES BY THE PECK: Valentine's Day brought an extra surprise for Ken Hone of Minden last Monday. He received a dozen Sweetheart Roses from his wife Lucy, who topped off the gift with a peck on the cheek. Ken was one of 22 winners across the county who were surprised with the bouquets. They were all winners in the annual Times Sweetheart Contest . Other contest winners are listed on page five of this week's newspaper.

It's winter carnival weekend in Minden

The winter carnival spirit is back in Minden.

The newly formed Minden Business Association is hosting a celebration in the snow this Saturday in the community. Events will be taking place throughout the village.

The day kicks off with the winter carnival tradition, a pancake breakfast, served up at three Minden area restaurants.

The downtown's Main Street will be closed for the day with merchants moving goods out on the street for a sidewalk sale. There will also be special displays including snowmobiles and ice sculptures.

The organizers want to spread the spirit throughout the community and are inviting everyone to become involved in the snowman and snow sculpture contest. There will be cash and merchandise prizes for the best entries.

Also in the works are cross-country and snowshoe races at the fair grounds. A mini-hockey tournament is planned for the ice surface next to Rachel's Bakery beside the library (see story on page 9). A snowmobile poker run with a $25 entry fee, which includes a roast beef or chicken dinner, is also on the schedule.

The regularly scheduled car racing on ice will be taking place at the fair grounds all day Saturday.

The Snowfest wraps up with a dance Saturday evening at the Rockcliffe Tavern on Minden's Main Street. Music will be provided by The Dogs. There are door prizes as well and a fun night of dancing.

Minden Business Association manager Eric Beaulieu notes that, like all winter carnivals, some events are subject to weather conditions and participation.

Look for entry forms for various contests at Minden area stores including Dollo's IGA, Easton's Valu-mart, Stedmans, the Minden IDA and Guardian Drug Stores and Golden Stationer.

Beaulieu is still in need of volunteers to help organize some of the events. Anyone interest in helping can call 286-4950.

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